



American Red Cross
Serving Orange, Riverside
and San Bernardino Counties

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NEWS RELEASE

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Red Cross, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Celebrate 10 Years of Partnership Local tribe supports preparedness, relief efforts with \$350k Donation

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – The American Red Cross and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians are celebrating 10 years of partnership by announcing a \$350,000 donation to help the organization prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

The partnership began following the Old Fire in 2003, to which San Manuel dedicated resources for relief efforts following wildfires that burned more than 90,000 acres. In the years since, the tribe has supported disaster relief efforts and also helped fund programs that provide preparedness training to Red Cross volunteers and members of the community, including seniors and youth.

“Our partnership with American Red Cross has greatly enhanced the ability to safeguard lives and property in the region and beyond,” said Chairperson Carla Rodriguez.

San Manuel’s support has not been limited to Southern California. The tribe contributed \$1.5 million to the Red Cross for Haiti earthquake relief and in the years following this major donation supported relief efforts across the United States including a recent donation of \$100,000 in response to the record breaking Moore Tornado that ravaged Oklahoma in May of 2013

“The compassion shown by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has helped provide food, shelter, relief supplies and comfort to residents here and around the world,” said Maxine Margaritis, regional CEO for the Red Cross serving Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

“San Manuel is more than a donor, they are a true partner,” added Yvette Ramos, CEO of the Red Cross in San Bernardino County. “Their support has allowed us to make a significant difference in the lives of so many people.”

That difference also includes helping train more than 8,000 people in lifesaving CPR and First Aid, disaster preparedness and more.

In 2010, the Inland Empire Chapter of the Red Cross was honored to receive the Yawa’ Award, presented to organizations that best represent the Tribe’s goals for its philanthropic outreach, at the tribe’s inaugural Forging Hope Luncheon.

The American Red Cross and San Manuel have forged a partnership that has not only enhanced regional readiness and emergency response, but exemplifies the positive outcomes when non-profits and an American Indian Tribe partner to protect and preserve lives.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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